Enhancement of wages of labourers in the Unorganised Sector

1721. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have been considering enhancement of wages of labourers belonging to the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being contemplated to ascertain execution of decisions on enhancement in wages scrupulously?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Under the minimum Wages Act, the Central and the State Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. The Act provides for the review/revision of minimum rates of wages in period not exceeding five years. The Central Government is responsible for the fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in 40 scheduled employments. Of these, wages in agriculture were last revised on 12.8.1992, while the wages in the remaining 39 scheduled employments were revised on 12.7.1994. For all these employments provision of Variable Dearness Allowance also exists. The State Governments have also fixed minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction and revised these rates from time to time. They have also provided for the Variable Dearness Allowance in respect of certain scheduled employments. However, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to revise floor and fix level minimum wages at least upto Rs. 35/- per day, wherever they are below this rate at present. The appropriate Governments under the Act set to the required administrative machinery for enforcement of the Act. The enforcement machinery makes regular inspections and takes necessary action whenever any violation of the Act is detected. The Central Government also keep impressing upon the State Governments the need to take appropriate measures to improve effectiveness of the Act in their respective States. The steps recommended include utilisation of services of the officers of other departments like Revenue, Agriculture, Co-operation etc, in the enforcement of the Act, to increase the number of inspectors, to give wide publicity to the provisions of the Act through various media like Radio, Press etc.

Centrally sponsored Scheme for Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST and OBC Students in Bihar

1722. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored scheme for the upgradation of merit of SC, ST and OBC students is being implemented in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students from these categories covered under the scheme in the State as on date; and

(d) any other steps Government propose to take to upgrade the merit of these students of the State to bring them at per with the all India level?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) A Central Sector scheme of upgradation of merit of SC/ST students is being implemented. There is, however, no such scheme for OBC students.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 10,76,700/- was released to the Govt. of Bihar during 1988-89. But the State

Govt. has not sent utilisation certificate so far.

The amount was released for 108 SC/ST students during 1988-89.

(d) Govt. of Bihar has been requested to send proposals for 1996-97 for implementating the scheme of upgradation of merit of SC/ST students.

Employment Opportunities for Skilled Workers in Gujarat

1723. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in comparison to the national average of literacy, the literacy level is very low in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the tribal dominated areas where the literacy level is highest the lowest alongwith the percentage thereof, separately;

(d) whether Government have chalked out any time bound programme for promoting this percentage of literacy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) There are some tribal areas where literacy is lower than the national average but there are also some tribal areas where literacy is higher than the national average. A statement indicating State/UT-wise percentage of general literacy and literacy percentage among Scheduled Tribes is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below)

(c) The highest percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is in the State of Mizoram, being 82.71% The lowest percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is in the State of Andhra Pradesh, being 17.16%.

(d) and (e) The Government has taken the following steps to raise the literacy percentage of Scheduled Tribes:—

(1) Opening of schools in ST habitations with relaxed norms.

(2) Covering of Tribal population under Operation Blackboard Scheme.

(3) Coverage of Tribal areas under non-formal education.

(4) Coverage of Tribal districts in Total Literacy Campaign Programme.

Under this scheme, financial assistance is given to Zilla Saksharte Samities in proportion of 4:1. This implies that 80% financial Liability is of Department of Education while State Government bears only 20% of the approved expenditure. Out of sixty-six districts identified as tribal districts (the districts with tribal population is 40% of total population as per 1991 census), 30 districts have already been covered under total literacy Campaigns.

(5) Mid-day Meal: Out of 2446 blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme, 1082 EAS blocks are Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) blocks. There is a provision to cover 2005 low female literacy (LFL) blocks by the year 1996-97, which includes tribal areas.

(6) Districts Primary Education Programme (DPEP): This scheme lays special emphasis on the education of deprived sections of society including tribals.

(7) Primary Education in Tribal dialects for tribal children: NCERT and the Central Institute of Indian Languages prepare the text books for tribal children in their local dialects. In addition to it, the supplementary reading material is also prepared by these institutions for tribal children.